

April 3, 1974

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. If you took by signing section 6, which takes the District County Judges off of the bill, we can't possibly be affected by anyway, because their salary changes come at the wrong time, and so...it should be out of the bill anyway at this time. Let's take it out, and move on with the bill.

PRESIDENT: Any discussion on this. Senator Whitney, your light's on.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I think Senator Loren Schmit said Section 6, and I think he meant Section 3, is that it.

CLERK: The amendment reads Section 3.

PRESIDENT: Is that right, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes. It is Section 3, I'm sorry if I misspoke.

SENATOR WHITNEY: O.K.

PRESIDENT: All right, all those in favor of the Schmit amendment vote aye, all those opposed vote no.
Clerk will record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 3 nays.

PRESIDENT: The Schmit amendment is adopted. Are there further amendments.

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, an amendment offered by Senator Mahoney to delete the cost of living provisions.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, this does just about what Senator Schmit's amendment does. It takes out the consumer index in the Labor Department and the portion that I think does not belong in this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fellman and then Senator Syas.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President, I realize that this might be a very popular position to support this cost of living, but I think someone should make the argument and I believe in the argument that this cost of living should be in here. You get exactly what you pay for. Judges are not normal employees. There is a difference to being a District Judge. It's unique position. It demands qualified people. The District Bench of the state has improved immeasurably in the last years. One of the reasons is the salaries have gone up. Another reason is the merit plan. I understand very well that there are many men and women on the floor of this Legislature who feel that there has been extensive lobbying. And some that feel that there might have been too much lobbying, on this particular bill. The best way to prevent this from happening in subsequent years, is to put this cost of living increase into the bill today. And then, the entire lobbying effort could be withdrawn. The District Judges would be doing what they would supposed to be doing, and they wouldn't have to come down here and worry about pay increases. We talk about pay increases for ourselves in terms of being fair to the people that are here.